



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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DEQ to present seminar to GNO, Inc. members and the public on ozone issues

BATON ROUGE – As part of the effort to inform and educate the state about nonattainment and ozone issues, staff of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality will speak to Greater New Orleans, Inc. members and interested parties on Wednesday, June 11.

The air quality in Louisiana is much improved but on March 12, EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson, lowered the national ambient air standard for the pollutant ozone to .075 parts per million. The lowering of the standard could result in 26 parishes being designated nonattainment. The new standard will have a significant impact on the parishes designated as nonattainment. Currently, there is only one five-parish nonattainment area in the state that includes East and West Baton Rouge, Iberville, Livingston and Ascension parishes.

DEQ has formed a Statewide Ozone Steering Committee to help raise public awareness, help define early actions that can be taken to mitigate the impact and to assist and educate communities. It consists of state and local governments, nonprofits, trade groups, environmentalists and interested parties. The committee is seeking input from all areas of the state and all areas of the public.

The presentation, called “Impacts of the Revised Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard,” gives pertinent information concerning ozone and the impact of the new ozone standard on the New Orleans area. Included is Orleans, Jefferson, St. Tammany, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist and Plaquemines parishes. The meeting will be held at the Radisson Hotel at 2150 Veteran’s Blvd from 3 to 5 p.m. and is open to the public. Anyone who has a stake in the economic impact of the new ozone standard on business, industry and the public is invited to attend.

For more information on air quality in Louisiana and the Statewide Ozone Steering Committee, please go to www.deq.louisiana.gov. If you want to attend, please R.S.V.P. to Rachel Shields at rshields@gnoinc.org or call 504.527.6939.